

Remarks

Claims 75-90 are pending in the application and have been examined. Claims 75-90 stand rejected. Claims 79, 83, 86, 89, and 90 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the Application by the present Amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration of the case, as amended.

I. Election/Restriction

Applicant thanks the Examiner for rejoining the claims of Groups I and II.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 75-90 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claims 75 and 83, the Examiner believes the language “a combinatorial library of probe compounds attached at discrete locations” is vague and indefinite because it is unclear as to what structure the probe compounds are attached. Applicant respectfully submits that it is clear and definite from the claim language “attached at discrete locations along the length of the optical fiber” that the probe compounds are attached to the optical fiber. Applicant requests that the rejection be removed.

Claim 83 has been rejected for omitting a step and because of ambiguity in the relationship between the analyte and the probe compound. Applicant submits that the probe compounds are attached to the optical fiber, and the target compounds are found in the analyte. The target compound in the analyte are the substances being analyzed for by the probe compounds on the optical fiber. Claim 83 has been amended to make this clear. Applicant submits that the omitted step the Examiner is referring to is essentially steps (b) and (c) of the claimed method. Applicant, therefore, requests that the rejection be removed.

Claim 83 has also been rejected for uncertain antecedent basis for the language “a length of the optical fiber.” Claim 83 is presently amended to recite “the length of the optical fiber” to

make it clear that the optical fiber has only one length. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment obviates the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 86 has been rejected because the Examiner maintains that it is unclear as to what does the interacting. Claim 86 has been amended to recite that light from the light source interacts with the probe molecules. Applicant respectfully submits that the present Amendment obviates this rejection.


Claim 89 has been rejected because the Examiner maintains that the language "light interacting with different of the probe molecules" does not appear to make sense. Claim 89 has been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejection. Applicant submits that amended claim 89 makes it clear that light that has interacted with different probe molecules is distinguishable. Applicant requests that the rejection be removed.

Claim 90 has been rejected for insufficient antecedent basis for "the received light." Claim 90 has been amended to recite "light received by the light sensor," thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection.

In view of the forgoing arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that the present case is now in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is requested.

Please charge any fees that may be required for the processing of this Response, or credit any overpayments, to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,


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